Translator's Notes

This short story by Suzue Miuchi is based on Oda Nobunaga's life. The real facts were a bit different from the ones Miuchi describes, especially the love story between Nobunaga and Nōhime.

If you're intersted in the real story, check this page

http://uk.geocities.com/rainforestwind/oda19.htm

Nōhime's proper name was Kicho, but since she came from Mino province, she is most commonly referred to as Nōhime. It could be translated as Lady Noh, since hime is a title used to address ladies of higher birth or class. I'm translating from the Italian version and they used princess Nōhime (that's quite redundant) I think her father wouldn't call her Nōhime, so I used Kicho instead. However Nobunaga calls her Nōhime at first (I wasn't sure so I decided to leave it as the Italian version)

I followed the Italian version for the rest of names, titles, etc.

In page 3 a young man called Mitsuhide appears. I think he's a historic character too, Akechi Mitsuhide, nicknamed Jubei. (He's mentioned in the last page) He was a samurai who lived during the Sengoku period of Feudal Japan. He was a general under Oda Nobunaga, although he later betrayed him and caused him to commit seppuku. He was born in Mino province like Nōhime. As far as I know he wasn't so close to her as the author implies.

Well, I think that's all. Enjoy the story! ^_~

Credits

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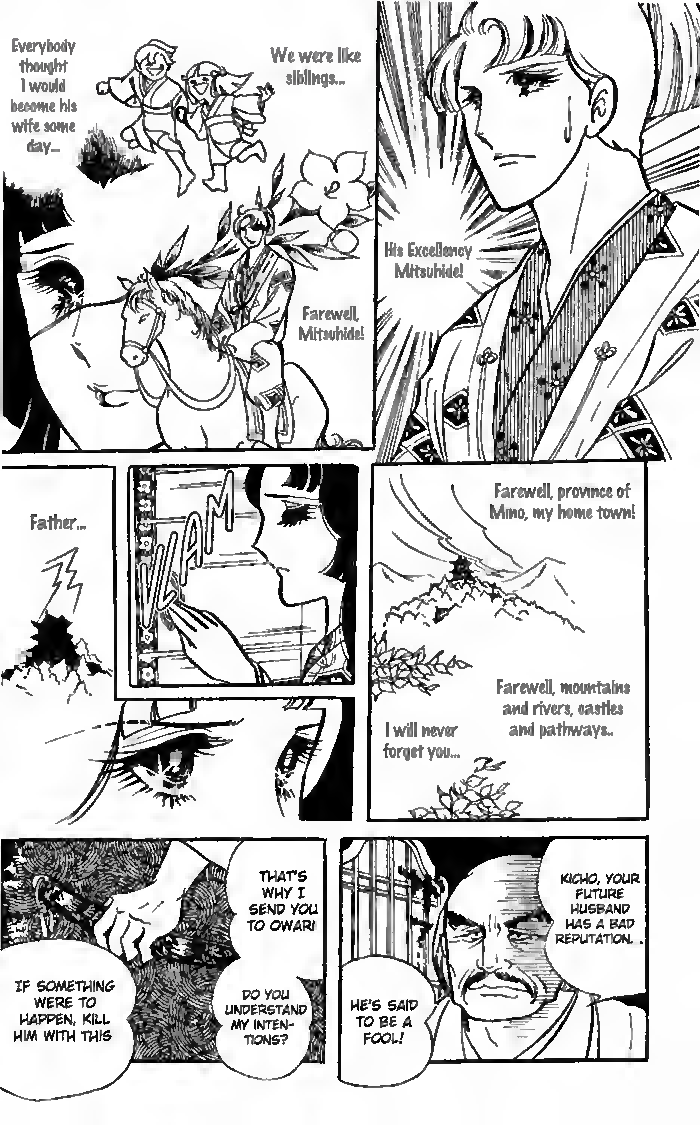
http://glassmask.proboards50.com/

COME AND SEE NOHIME'S PASSING!
SHE'S SO BEAUTIFUL!
SHE'S AS DAZZLING AS EVER.
POOR GIRL. I HEARD SHE MUST MARRY THAT USELESS ODA...
SHE WILL HAVE TO GO TO OWARI...
...THAT DISTANT LAND BESIEGED BY CONSTANT WARS.

SO HE HAS DECIDED TO GIVE HIS DAUGHTER IN MARRIAGE TO ODA!
THE DAIMYO*, SAITO DOSAN, FROM THE SAGIYAMA CASTLE, HAS TRIED IN VAIN TO FIGHT THEM BACK.
THE LORDS OF OWARI TRIED TO INVADE THE PROVINCE OF MINO SEVERAL TIMES.
THIS ARRANGED MARRIAGE IS SUPPOSED TO KEEP MUTUAL HOSTILITIES BETWEEN THE PROVINCES OF OWARI AND MINO AT BAY.
BUT DOSAN IS A TREACHEROUS SNAKE.
HE'LL BETRAY HIM SOONER OR LATER!
ODA BELIEVES HE IS MAKING A SOLID ALLIANCE WITH DOSAN BY MARRYING HIS DAUGHTER INTO THE FAMILY.
Isn't that...
OH!
IT WILL BE HARD FOR NOHIME TO ENTER ENEMY TERRITORY BY HERSELF!
WHAT A SAD DESTINY!

* Feudal ruler from the 12th century to the 19th century in Japan. The term daimyo is also sometimes used to refer to the leading figures of clans also called "warlords"


Everybody thought I would become his wife some day...
We were like siblings...
Farewell, Mitsuhide!
His Excellency Mitsuhide!
Father...
WHAM
Farewell, province of Mino, my home town!
Farewell, mountains and rivers, castles and pathways..
I will never forget you...
IF SOMETHING WERE TO HAPPEN, KILL HIM WITH THIS
DO YOU UNDERSTAND MY INTENTIONS?
THAT'S WHY I SEND YOU TO OWARI
HE'S SAID TO BE A FOOL!
KICHO, YOUR FUTURE HUSBAND HAS A BAD REPUTATION. .

MAYBE THAT MAN IS A FOOL LIKE EVERYBODY SAYS..
BUT I MAY FALL IN LOVE WITH HIM...
THEN I COULD USE THIS KNIFE AGAINST YOU, FATHER.
FATHER.. IN THIS WORLD OF WAR A WOMAN CAN'T CHOOSE HER HUSBAND.
I WILL BE THE ONE TO CHOOSE WHOM I LOVE.
I CAN THINK WITH MY HEAD
AND MY HEART BELONGS ONLY TO ME
BUT I AM NOT YOUR TOY..
YOU'RE A WOMAN, SO YOU'LL FIGHT IN LOVE!
MEN FIGHT IN WAR
THIS WORLD IS A BATTLEFIELD, KICHO!
YOUR LITTER IS READY!
NOW YOU SHALL DEPART FOR OWARI!
THIS IS YOUR BATTLE, KICHO!
BUT THAT MAN IS TRULY A FOOL...
YOU HAVE A STRONG CHARACTER, MY DAUGHTER!
AHAHA
SO THINK TWICE BEFORE FALLING IN LOVE WITH HIM! THAT'S MY ADVICE!

THE ENTOURAGE SET OFF.
Oda Nobunaga is said to be a fool...
I wonder how he is in reality...
ONCE THEY CROSSED THE RIVER, THEY MET ODA'S DELEGATION.
THEY SOON REACHED OWARI.
AREN'T YOU TIRED, MY LADY?
I AM NOT. YOU MUST BE THE TIRED ONE, KAGAMINO!
AHAH
THE VILLAGE CHILDREN ARE FISHING IN THE RIVER.
WHAT'S ALL THAT DIN?
IT'S THERE! THERE! BESIDE YOU!
GAH
AHAH
SPLASH
SPLASH
AH

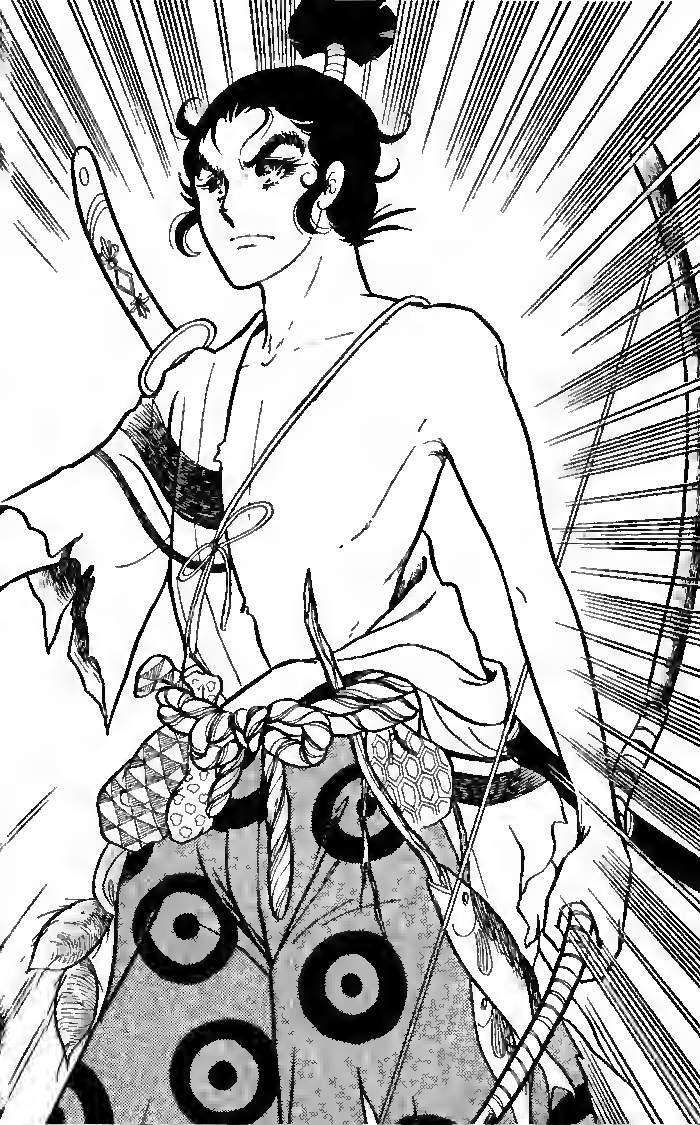
HE LOOKS LIKE A SACK OF POTATOES...
...WITH ALL THOSE POUCHES HANGING FROM HIS WAIST!
HMPH! LOOK AT HIS CLOTHES!
I CAUGHT IT! LOOK! IT'S HUGE!
IT'S THE SEVENTH FISH I CAUGHT!
GOOD JOB, HIKO!
YOU DESERVE A PRIZE!
IT WAS GETTING DARK WHEN NOHIME ARRIVED AT ODA'S PALACE.
HE MUST BE ABOUT YOUR AGE, MY LADY, BUT HE STILL PLAYS IN THE RIVER LIKE A CHILD!
AND TO TOP IT OFF, DRESSED LIKE THAT
IT'S TOO MUCH EVEN FOR A COUNTRY BOY
A REAL SAVAGE!

I AM HONORED TO BE HERE.
I AM NOHIME, SAITO DOSAN'S DAUGHTER
FROM SAGIYAMA CASTLE IN THE PROVINCE OF MINO.
THIS IS TSUCHIDA GOZEN, NOBUNAGA'S MOTHER.
WELCOME TO THE PALACE, HIME. I'M ODA NOBUHIDE, NOBUNAGA'S FATHER.
PLEASED TO MEET YOU, HIME.
SINCE THE PROPER INTRODUCTIONS HAVE BEEN MADE...
YOU MAY NOW RETIRE
Eh? What about Nobunaga?
THIS IS NOBUYUKI, NOBUNAGA'S YOUNGER BROTHER.
...AND AOYAMA YOZAEMON
THESE ARE THE COUNCILLORS, HAYASHI SADONOKAMI MICHIKATSU...
AND THIS IS THE OLDEST COUNCILLOR
HIRATE MASASHIDE
IF YOU NEED SOMETHING REGARDING NOBUNAGA, FEEL FREE TO ASK HIM.
MASASHIDE HAS BEEN IN CHARGE OF NOBUNAGA'S EDUCATION SINCE HE WAS A CHILD.

Why was Nobunaga not introduced to me?
THIS WAY, MY LADY.
OH! THE BRIDE HAS ARRIVED!
SHE'S SO BEAUTIFUL!
WHAT? HIS EXCELLENCY NOBUNAGA...
...HAS YET TO RETURN? I SEE...

IF YOU'RE SEARCHING FOR THE GROOM, YOU SHOULD LOOK IN VALLEYS AND RIVERS
HI HI HI
YOU'RE RIGHT!
PLEASE, DO NOT SPEAK SO LOUDLY, YOUR EXCELLENCY!
DAMN YOU! I TOLD YOU TO KEEP AN EYE ON HIM!
THE WEDDING MUST TAKE PLACE TODAY!
PSS
BLA
OH, FINALLY!
MY LORD! HIS EXCELLENCY NOBUNAGA HAS RETURNED!
IT WAS ABOUT TIME!
GET OUT OF MY WAY!
MY LORD! CHANGE YOUR CLOTHES AT LEAST!
Ah, I'm so nervous..
"If you're searching for the groom, you should look in valleys and rivers?"
Where will Nobunaga be?
What did they mean by that?

I DON'T WANT TO DECEIVE MY FUTURE WIFE WEARING ELEGANT CLOTHES!
SHE MUST ACCEPT ME AS I AM!
TAP TAP TAP TAP
I TOLD YOU THAT IT'S NOT NECESSARY!
I'M FINE LIKE THIS!
WAIT, YOUR EXCELLENCY!
YOU CAN'T TURN UP LIKE THAT!
OF COURSE I CAN!
TAP TAP TAP
OOH!
AH!
WOOOS



The man I saw at the river!
OOH!
KAGA-MINO!
BLINK
OH
I'M ODA NOBUNAGA!
PLEASED TO MEET YOU... I AM NOHIME, DOSAN'S DAUGHTER, FROM THE PROVINCE OF MINO.
JUMP
THEN? WHAT ABOUT THE WEDDING?!

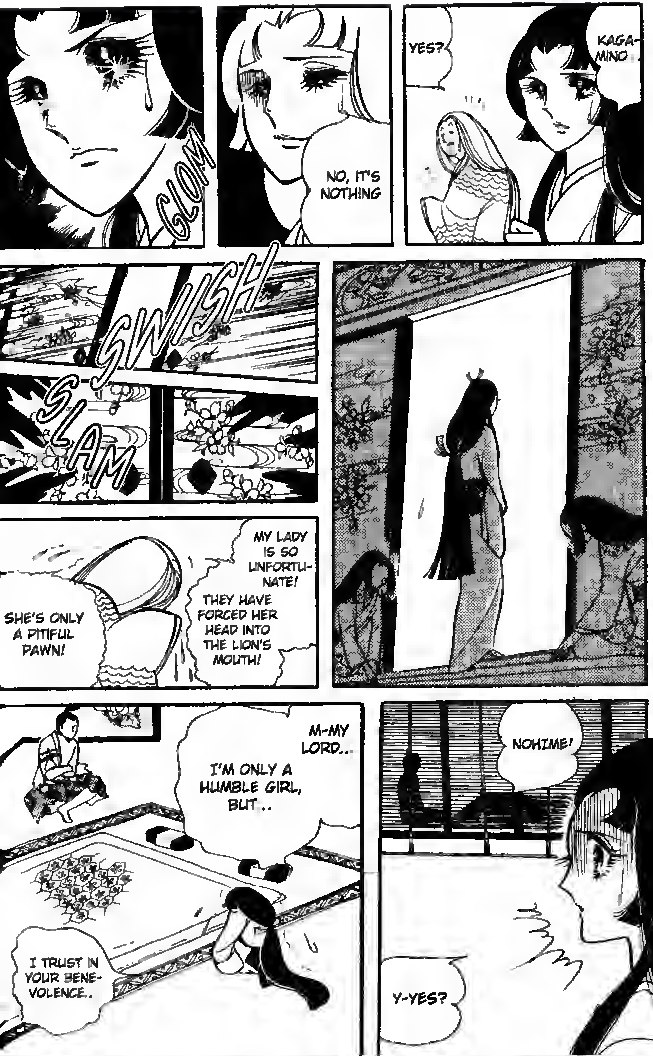
AREN'T YOU ASHAMED TO TURN UP TO THE WEDDING CEREMONY LIKE THAT, BROTHER!
IT'S AN INSULT TO YOUR FUTURE WIFE AND TO OUR GUESTS!
I COULDN'T CARE LESS! I DIDN'T ASK TO MARRY!
BLA BLA
I'M ASHAMED TO BE YOUR MOTHER!
YOU'RE A DISGRACE TO THE ODA FAMILY!
THIS MARRIAGE IS A MISTAKE!
THAT'S ENOUGH! LET'S START WITH THE CEREMONY!
CLAP
HE'S A FOOL LIKE EVERYBODY SAYS!
HE DOESN'T EVEN KNOW HOW TO SIT PROPERLY!
LOOK AT HIS HAIRSTYLE!
HE'S A REAL SAVAGE!
AND WHAT ABOUT ALL THOSE POUCHES?
THERE ARE EVEN SOME FISHES HANGING FROM HIS WAIST!

HI HI HI
LOOK AT HIS CLOTHES!
HE LOOKS LIKE A BEGGAR!
BUT NOBUNAGA SAID IT WAS UNCOMFORTABLE SO HE TORE THE HEMS WITH HIS OWN HANDS.
UNTIL HIS FATHER TOLD HIM OFF AND FORCED HIM TO WEAR A HAKAMA...
HE WORE SHORT KOSODE* LIKE THE PEASANTS...
LOOK AT HIS HAKAMA*!

A STRANGE COUPLE WAS BORN THAT DAY.
ODA NOBUNAGA, 16 YEARS OLD NOHIME, 15 YEARS OLD
THEIR MARRIAGE MEANT THE RECONCILIATION OF THE OWARI AND MINO CLANS.

*JAPANESE MALE GARMENTS

MY LADY, YOU REMEMBER WHAT I TAUGHT YOU, DON'T YOU?
YOU MUST SATISFY ANY OF HIS EXCELLENCY NOBUNAGA'S DESIRES.
GOOD NIGHT, MY LADY.
I KNOW, KAGAMINO.
FROM THAT DAY ON, A DANGEROUS LIFE STARTED FOR NOHIME.
SHE MUST LIVE WITH THE PERSON SHE TRUSTS THE LEAST IN THE WORLD.


GLOW
NO, IT'S NOTHING
YES?
KAGAMINO
SWISH
SLAM
MY LADY IS SO UNFORTUNATE!
THEY HAVE FORCED HER HEAD INTO THE LION'S MOUTH!
SHE'S ONLY A PITIFUL PAWN!
M-MY LORD..
I'M ONLY A HUMBLE GIRL, BUT..
I TRUST IN YOUR BENEVOLENCE..
NOHIME!
Y-YES?

NOHIME, YOU'RE SCARING ME WITH THAT SERIOUS EXPRESSION!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO PRETEND! COME ON, SMILE!
GULP
Y-YES
TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH I'M AFRAID OF YOU!
SCRATCH SCRATCH
SCRATCH
ARE YOU PLANNING TO BITE ME?
YOU'RE SAID TO BE THE DAUGHTER OF A SNAKE!
GASP
FIUUU
IT SEEMS SOME SNAKES PRODUCE VENOM IN THEIR TEETH
I'M SURE YOUR SNAKE-LIKE FATHER SENT YOU HERE BECAUSE OF THAT.
I'M AFRAID TO FALL ASLEEP, YOU COULD BITE ME TO DEATH
GO TO SLEEP!
I BETTER STAY AWAKE UNTIL YOU FALL ASLEEP...
How? How can he know of my father's true intentions? Who told him?
IF I'M THE DAUGHTER OF A SNAKE. .
NO WAY! YOU SHOULD GO TO SLEEP BEFORE ME!
I'M THE ONE WHO SHOULD BE AFRAID FOR HER LIFE!
...THEN YOU MAY TRY TO KILL ME!

I BEG YOU, GO TO SLEEP, MY LORD!
AS SOON AS I FALL ASLEEP YOU'LL HIT ME WITH A STICK!
I DON'T WANT TO!
GO TO SLEEP, NOHIME!
I'LL KILL THE SNAKE...
...BY BEATING IT UP!
HA HA HA! WHAT AN IDEA!
YOU STARTED THIS!
THEN I'LL STAY AWAKE TOO!
ARE YOU CHALLENGING ME?
OK, I'LL STAY AWAKE!
I WON'T BACK OUT!
WHO WILL WIN?
THINGS ARE GETTING INTERESTING!
ARE YOU READY FOR THIS BATTLE?
AHAHAHAH
AHAHAHAH

CRUCRU

NOBUNAGA'S PARENTS AND BROTHER RETURNED TO THEIR RESIDENCE IN FURUWATARI, NOT FAR FROM NAGOYA CASTLE.
THE NIGHT WAR FINISHED AT LAST.
THE TWO OF THEM WAITED FOR THE DAWN IN SILENCE.
CRI! CRI! CRI!!!
THE SERVANTS WHO HAD ESCORTED NOHIME RETURNED TO DOSAN'S CASTLE TOO. ONLY KAGAMINO AND TWO OTHER MAIDS STAYED WITH HER.
NOHIME WAS ODA NOBUNAGA'S WIFE.
CREAK
NOBUNAGA, LORD OF NAGOYA CASTLE, IS GOING OUT!
OPEN THE DOORS!

MY LORD! STOP! YOU'RE NEEDED IN THE CASTLE!
LEAVE ME ALONE! I PREFER RIDING MY HORSE TO GROWING MOULDY WITHIN THESE FOUR WALLS!
RATTLE RATTLE
WHAT A SCANDAL!
HE JUST GOT MARRIED, FOR CRYING OUT LOUD!
HIS EXCELLENCY LEFT!
HE SURELY WENT TO HAVE FUN WITH THE KIDS IN THE VILLAGE!
WHEN HIS EXCELLENCY NOBUHIDE PASSES AWAY, THE YOUNG LORD WILL RUIN OUR LINEAGE!
YOU'RE RIGHT!
SHH! BE QUIET!
OH!
DON'T BE AFRAID, YOU CAN TALK IN MY PRESENCE
BY THE WAY, WHERE IS NOBUNAGA?

AND WANDERS THE MOUNTAINS AND VALLEYS WITH THEM
. HE GATHERS THE STRONGER AND MORE AUDACIOUS KIDS IN THE VILLAGE TOGETHER..
WHEN HE GOES TO THE COUNTRY...
THEY FISH IN THE RIVER AND HUNT IN THE FOREST.
IT'S HARD FOR ME, SINCE I'M HIS GUARDIAN
WHEN HE'S NEEDED IN THE CASTLE WE HAVE TO SEARCH FOR HIM IN THE MOUNTAINS...
THIS LAND BELONGED TO THE DAIMYO SHIBA ONCE THE ODAS WERE THEIR COUNCILLORS
SHIBA'S POWER WEAKENED AND ODA ISENOKAMI AND ODA YAMATONOKAMI TOOK CONTROL OF THE LAND
NOBUHIDE, NOBUNAGA'S FATHER WAS ONE OF THE TWO HEIRS OF YAMATONOKAMI
LITTLE BY LITTLE, HE BECAME THE TRUE LEADER OF THE ODA FAMILY.
MY LADY!
PLEASE, MAKE FRIENDS WITH NOBUNAGA.
MY LORD IS SURROUNDED BY ENEMIES!

IT SEEMS HIKOGORO INVITED YOSHIMUNE, THE LEADER OF THE SHIBA FAMILY, TO HIS CASTLE HE WANTS TO APPOINT HIM LEADER OF THE ODAS.
THERE'S A CASTLE IN THE WEST, THE KIYOSU CASTLE.
HIKOGORO TOMONOBU, YAMATONOKAMI'S OTHER SON, LIVES THERE
HE WANTS TO DESTROY NOBUHIDE AND HIS SON NOBUNAGA
EVEN HIS COUSIN NOBUKIYO FROM THE INUYAMA CASTLE IS PLOTTING AGAINST HIM.
AND THERE IS THE WAR AGAINST YOUR FATHER, SAITO DOSAN, TOO .

ON TOP OF THAT HIS MOTHER, TSUCHIDA GOZEN, FAVOURS NOBUYUKI, HER YOUNGER SON AND SHE'S NOT THE ONLY ONE!
THERE ARE ALSO ENEMIES OF THE ODA FAMILY WHO ONLY WANT TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE SITUATION TO HURT US!
SEVERAL COUNCILLORS, STARTING FROM HAYASHI SADONOKAMI, WANT NOBUYUKI TO INHERIT THE CLAN
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO ANYMORE...
THAT'S TERRIBLE!
He only thinks of having fun at a time like this!
PFUU!
THAT SNAKE OF A FATHER SENT YOU, RIGHT?
YOU'LL TRY TO KILL ME THE FIRST CHANCE YOU GET...
He knows of my father's true intentions!
HE'S SURROUNDED BY KIDS AS ALWAYS...
CHUNK
HEY! OUR STUPID LORD HAS RETURNED!
HE'S DRESSED LIKE A BEGGAR FOR A CHANGE!
IT'S INCREDIBLE...
THIS IS A SCANDAL!
Is he really a fool like everybody says?

BUT THE KIDS WHO FOLLOW HIM ARE REALLY STRONG!
THEY PRACTICE FIGHTING EVERY DAY.
CLOP-CLOP CLOP CLOP
THERE HE GOES AGAIN!
HE ONLY THINKS OF HAVING FUN!
BUT THEY ARE FAST!
IT'S TRUE! THEY ARE REALLY FAST!
AS FAST AS THE WIND!
THEY ARE FAST AND STRONG.
THEY RIDE EVERY DAY...
CLOP CLOP CLOP
NOBUNAGA DOESN'T SEE TO THE CASTLE AFFAIRS... HE ONLY RIDES HIS HORSE!
STOP INSULTING NOBUNAGA!
HE'S A GREAT MAN!

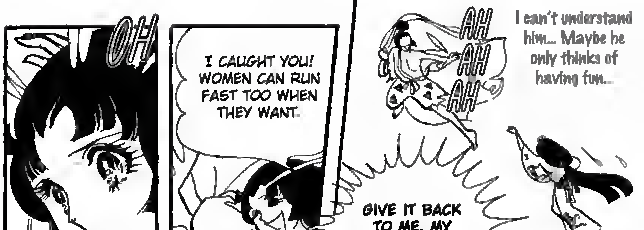
...BUT THE VILLAGE KIDS ADORE HIM!
WE CAN'T STOP INSULTING HIM...
THAT NOBUNAGA IS A STRANGE FELLOW
YES!
HEY, KID... DO YOU LIKE NOBUNAGA?
WHY?
GULP
IF YOU HAVE STRONG LEGS HE INVITES YOU TO WORK IN HIS CASTLE.
IF YOU FISH A LOT HE GIVES YOU A PRIZE..
SOME OF US WERE APPOINTED GENERALS!
HE DOESN'T MIND YOUR STATUS...
...BUT YOUR STRENGTH AND FIGHTING ABILITY
He doesn't mind your status...
...but your strength and fighting ability.
Then...
...all that training...
I understand now!
But of course! He's creating his own loyal army!

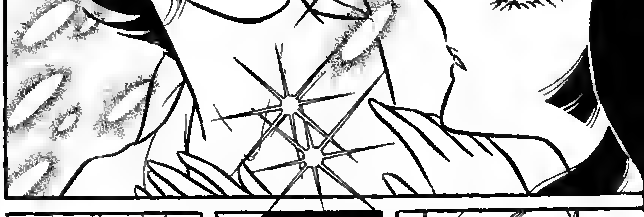
TUP TUP TUP TUP TUP
I'M HUNGRY! GIVE ME SOME RICE!
HIS EXCELLENCY NOBUNAGA HAS RETURNED!
WELCOME HOME, MY LORD.
NOHIME!
YOUR DINNER IS READY, PLEASE.
AH, ALRIGHT.
MY LORD!
WHAT IS IT?
DID YOU RIDE AND FIGHT WITH THE VILLAGE KIDS TODAY TOO, MY LORD?
YES, WE HAD SO MUCH FUN...
YOU'RE TRAINING ALL THOSE YOUNG MEN IN FIGHTING AND HORSE RIDING FOR THE WAR, AREN'T YOU?
STUMP

OH!
WHAT'S WRONG, MY LORD?
WOULD YOU LIKE SOME MORE RICE?
This woman is scary...
TRAINING? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
Where did she get that idea from?
How did she...
...find that out?
Nobunaga...
CR! CR! CR! CR! CR!
He hasn't come twilight either. He hasn't slept with me since then...
Who knows where he's sleeping...

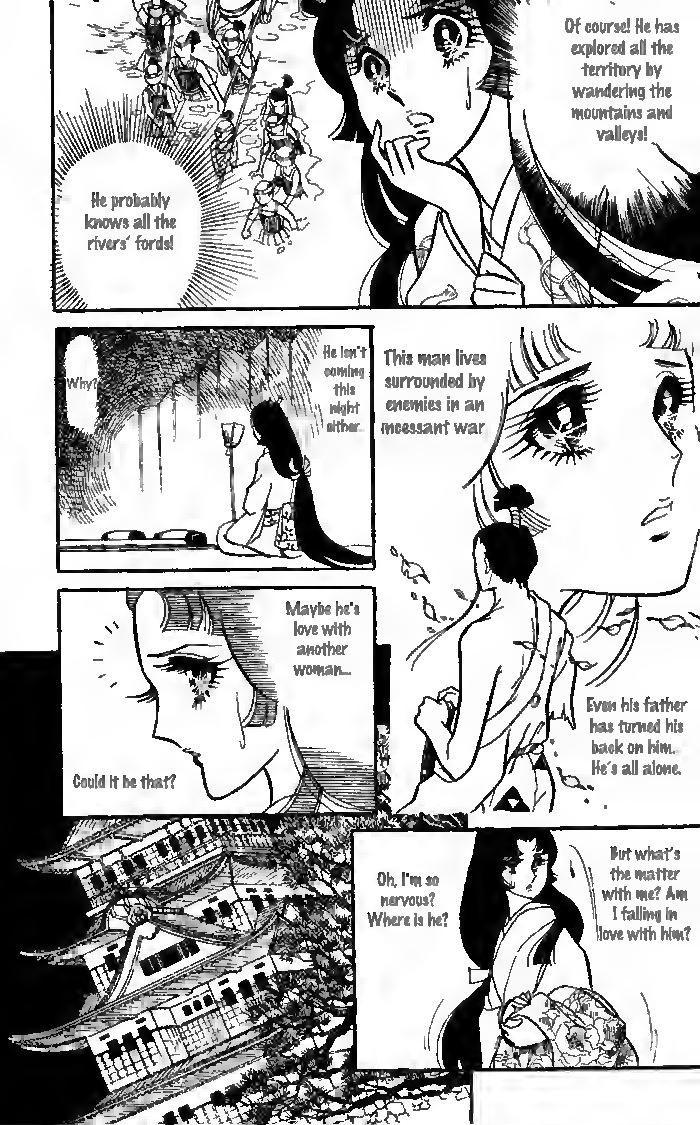
WOOSH
CONGRATULATIONS, YOUR EXCELLENCY NOBUYUKI!
YOU'RE NOT ONLY A SKILFUL SWORDSMAN BUT A BRILLIANT ARCHER
YOU ARE THE PRIDE OF THE ODA FAMILY!
YOU SHOULD FOLLOW HIS EXCELLENCY NOBUYUKI'S MODEL!
COME ON! LET'S SEE IF YOU ARE ABLE TO HIT A MOVING TARGET!
FLAP FLAP
SWISH
WHAAM
EXCELLENT!
THAT'S THE NEXT TARGET! GET YOUR BOWS READY!
AAH
OOOOOH
OOOH

Having fun? I don't think so. He's not playing..
IT DIPPED INTO THE LAKE! FOLLOW IT!
HA HA HA
NOBU-NAGA...
OOH OOH
IT SEEMS YOUR BROTHER IS HAVING FUN...
NOHIME, WHAT A BEAUTIFUL MANTLE!
LET ME TRY IT!
AH! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
AH AH AH AH
HOW DO I LOOK, NOHIME?
MY LORD!
NOHIME, WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
AT WORK? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
I WANTED TO SEE YOU AT WORK, MY LORD.
MY LORD!
THE TARGET MOVES IN WAR, RIGHT?
I THINK YOUR PLAYS MAY TURN OUT TO BE QUITE USEFUL..


OH!
I CAUGHT YOU! WOMEN CAN RUN FAST TOO WHEN THEY WANT.
AH AH AH AH
I can't understand him... Maybe he only thinks of having fun...
GIVE IT BACK TO ME, MY LORD! PLEASE!


FLAP
Nobunaga...

STOP! THE WATER IS TOO DEEP THERE!
EH?
WOOSH
OH NO! MY MANTLE!
SPLASH SPLASH
SPLAASH
AAH
GRAB
I NEARLY DROWNED.. IT DIDN'T LOOK THAT DEEP.
THE RIVER FLOOR LOWERS UNEXPECTEDLY TWO METRES AWAY FROM THE SHORE.
AND HOW FAR DOES THE RIVER GO?
NEARLY TWO KILOMETRES.
THERE'S A JUNGLE FULL OF AQUATIC PLANTS A KILOMETRE AWAY FROM HERE.


He probably knows all the rivers' fords!
Of course! He has explored all the territory by wandering the mountains and valleys!
Why?
He isn't coming this night either.
This man lives surrounded by enemies in an incessant war.
Maybe he's love with another woman...
Could it be that?
Even his father has turned his back on him. He's all alone.
Oh, I'm so nervous! Where is he?
But what's the matter with me? Am I falling in love with him?

Wouldn't he?
I CAN'T FIND HIM ANYWHERE...
WHERE CAN HE BE?
FWOOSH
NOBU-NAGA..

Nobunaga...
It's all my fault...
WOOOSH
The lord of the castle sleeping in such a cold and small room!
Surrounded by enemies, he doesn't have another place to rest...
So he's hiding here...
and I...

So sleep peacefully...
Nobu-naga...
I'll watch over you tonight!
No enemy will be able to harm you!
Forgive me... Forgive me, Nobunaga!

HE'S FULL OF ENERGY LATELY, ISN'T HE?
HA HA HA HA HAAA HAAA
AAAAAH
GBAM
WHAAM
WHAT ARE YOU LAUGHING AT, MY LADY?
HU-HU-HU
WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?! THE NEXT ONE!
AAH! NOHIME!
I can't help thinking of his face when he woke up in my arms.
I CAN'T STOP LOOKING AT HIM SINCE THEN.

BUT I'M THAT FOOL'S WIFE...
WHY DON'T YOU CALL ME FOOL?
YES?
NO-HIME!
I COULD BEAT YOU UP WHILE YOU SLEEP...
YOU'RE THE DAUGHTER OF A SNAKE, NOHIME...
AS YOU WISH
GO TO SLEEP, NOHIME!
HMPH! I DON'T UNDERSTAND YOU...
Kicho...
I KNOW I CAN SLEEP PEACE-FULLY!
MY LORD... I TRUST YOU!

IT'S SO STRANGE...
KICHO, AREN'T YOU SCARED OF ME?
I TRUST YOU...
I'VE NEVER FELT SO CALM BEING SO CLOSE TO SOMEONE.
CRII CRII CRII
NOBUNAGA..
KICHO...
YOU'VE MADE PROGRESS!
OH, YOU'RE HERE!
BAANG BAANG

I LOVE YOU, MY LORD.
AND DO YOU LOVE ME?
I LOVE STRENGTH
THESE WEAPONS FROM THE SOUTH ARE EXCEPTIONAL!
I ALSO LOVE STRENGTH, MY LORD
FRUSH FRUSH
DO YOU BY ANY CHANCE KNOW HOW MANY OF THESE YOUR FATHER HAS?
NOT MANY PEOPLE HAVE THESE RIFLES FOR THE TIME BEING
He's putting my loyalty to the test
He wants to know how many weapons his enemy has...
FRUSH FRUSH FRUSH
THERE WERE FEW RIFLES AT THAT TIME IN JAPAN SO THE NUMBER OF THEM COULD DECIDE THE WINNER OF A BATTLE.

You're like the rainbow...
I love you.. I love you so much...
Nobunaga... What are you thinking of while looking at the sky?
I can't reach you!
But I don't understand you...
UHM...
AROUND 250, MY LORD.
FUUUUUU
I SEE.
ODA NOBUHIDE PASSED AWAY ON 3RD MARCH IN THE 20TH YEAR OF THE TENMON ERA.
HE WAS 42 YEARS OLD
THE FUNERAL TOOK PLACE IN THE BANSHO SHRINE AND 300 MONKS AND 2000 NOBLES AND SAMURAIS TOOK PART IN IT

THE YOUNGER SON, NOBUYUKI, WHO ASPIRED TO TAKE HIS BROTHER'S PLACE WAS PRESENT ..
..AS WELL AS THE COUNCILLOR HAYASHI SADANOKAMI, NOBUYUKI'S LOYAL ALLY.
ODA HIKOGORO FROM THE KIYOSU CASTLE, WHO WAS PLOTTING AGAINST NOBUHIDE'S FAMILY...
THE AMBITIOUS NOBUKIYO FROM THE INUYAMA CASTLE...
AND SAITO DOSAN'S (NOHIME'S FATHER AND ODA'S ENEMY) ENVOY.

I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM SINCE THIS MORNING.
WHERE DID HE GO?
THE CEREMONY IS ABOUT TO START
WE CAN'T START THE FUNERAL WITHOUT HIM!
WHERE'S NOBUNAGA?!
WE HAVE SEARCHED FOR HIM EVERYWHERE, MY LORD, BUT...
HE COULD APPEAR AT HIS FATHER'S FUNERAL AT LEAST!
IT'S LATE! WHY HASN'T HE ARRIVED YET?
THAT FOOL MIGHT BE WANDERING THE FIELDS!
OH!
OOOH
OOOH
OH! HE CAME! HIS EXCELLENCY NOBUNAGA IS HERE!
MY LORD, THOSE AREN'T THE PROPER GARMENTS!
LEAVE ME ALONE!
GET OUT OF MY WAY!
I ONLY HAVE TO BURN SOME INCENSE AFTER ALL!
OOOH

MY LORD!
WAIT!
TRUMP TRUMP
What's he trying to do?
WHAM
WOSH
OOOH
THE IN-CENSE!
HE THREW IT OVER HIS FATHER'S TOMB!
BUT WHAT'S HE DOING?
HOW SHAMELESS!

SILENCE
CLOP
CLOP
CLOP
CLOP
THE NEW DAIMYO'S RUN AWAY...
TO THINK IT'S HIS FATHER'S FUNERAL...
HOW CAN A MAN LIKE THAT INHERIT THE TITLE OF DAIMYO?
My Lord...
YOUR EXCELLENCY MASAHIDE...
WHAT A WAY TO EDUCATE OUR LORD NOBUNAGA!
YOUR EXCELLENCY HIKOGOKORO, NOW THAT HIS EXCELLENCY NOBUHIDE PASSED AWAY..
YOU DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO FEAR...
OWARI IS ALREADY IN MY HANDS!
THAT FOOL NOBUNAGA ISN'T A THREAT TO NAGOYA'S CASTLE.
NOW THAT NOBUHIDE ISN'T HERE...
.. MY ONLY RIVAL IS KIYOGORO!

PROVINCE OF MINO, SAGIYAMA CASTLE.
HA HA HA! INCREDIBLE!
HE RAN AWAY FROM HIS FATHER'S FUNERAL TO RETURN TO THE FOREST!
... ASSUMED ALL THE RESPONSIBILITY AS HIS MENTOR!
AND THAT'S NOT ALL! HIS EXCELLENCY MASAHIDE...
THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED, HIS EXCELLENCY DOSAN.
WHAT? HIRATE KILLED HIMSELF?!
HE EXCUSED HIMSELF FOR DOING SUCH A BAD JOB AT EDUCATING NOBUNAGA AND COMMITTED SEPPUKU*!
*Formal term for ritual suicide, also known as Harakiri
WHAT? MY FATHER WANTS TO HAVE A MEETING WITH NOBUNAGA?
YES. HE SENT A MESSENGER THIS MORNING!
WHAT ?!
HE AGREED.
AND WHAT DID NOBUNAGA SAY?
THAT'S GREAT! NOW THAT NOBUHIDE IS DEAD AND THE HOUSE IS IN THE HANDS OF THAT FOOL, IT'S OUR CHANCE TO ATTACK!
WE'LL BE SUCCESSFUL THIS TIME!
I WAS RIGHT TO GIVE MY DAUGHTER IN MARRIAGE TO THAT FOOL!
WELL, AFTER ALL HE HAS BEEN IN CHARGE OF NOBUNAGA'S EDUCATION SINCE HE WAS A CHILD
I NEVER THOUGHT NOBUNAGA COULD COME TO THIS.

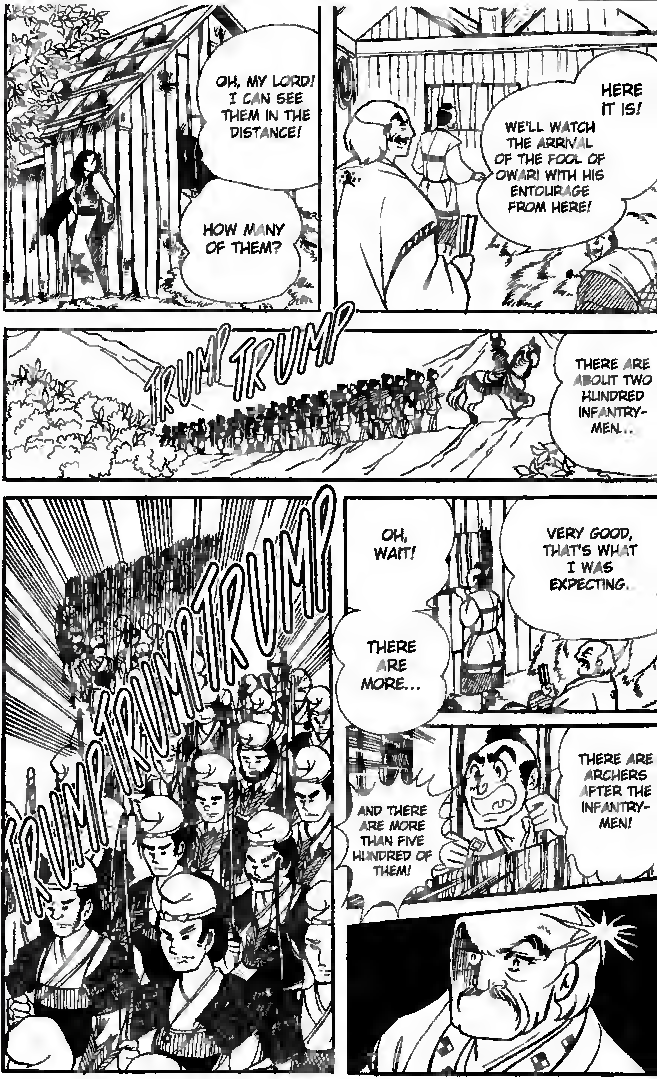
That's why he wants to have a meeting with him!
He wants to get rid of Nobunaga!
He thinks it'll be an easy task now that Nobuhide passed away.
My father wants to attack Owari!
I DIDN'T THINK YOU WERE SO STUPID!
IT'S NOT THE TIME TO BE THINKING OF THE RAIN!
YOU... YOU'RE A FOOL!
I SEE... SO YOU REALLY THINK OF ME THAT WAY.
KICHO..
WOOOSH
MY LORD!
LOOK, IT'S RAINING...
BUT YOU SAID HE'S A SNAKE!
HOW CAN YOU TRUST HIM?
MY FATHER WANTS TO HAVE A MEETING WITH YOU TO KILL YOU!
WELL, HE'S YOUR FATHER AFTER ALL...
AND MY FATHER IN LAW.
WHAT'S SO WRONG ABOUT MEETING WITH YOUR FATHER IN LAW?
WHY? WHY DIDN'T YOU REFUSE?
WHY DID YOU AGREE TO HAVE A MEETING WITH DOSAN?

I DON'T.
AND YOU DON'T WANT THAT?
WHY?
BECAUSE I LOVE YOU.
I DON'T MIND...
EVEN WHEN I HAVE SUCH A BAD REPUTATION IN ALL THE COUNTRY?
YES.
EVEN WHEN I GO AROUND DRESSED IN RAGS?
YES..
EVEN WHEN I'M A WANDERER?
KICHO... LOOK OUTSIDE THE WINDOW...
LOOK AT THE RAIN..
I'M THE FOOL OF OWARI!
I LOVE YOU!
I LOVE YOU!

THE SKY DECIDES WHEN THE RAIN FALLS AND WHEN THE SUN SHINES!
WOOSH
BUT THE LAND WILL BE MINE!
The land!
This man...
...wants to conquer the world!
He has great ambition!
Being the leader of the Oda family is nothing...
...compared to his ambition of conquering Owari and Kiyosu!
THE LAND WILL BE MINE AND I'LL MAKE THE SUN SHINE IN THIS WORLD OF WAR!

I MUST START FROM OWARI TO CONQUER THE WORLD...
MY STRATEGY WORKED PERFECTLY TILL NOW.
MY BEHAVIOUR AT THE FUNERAL DECEIVED EVERYONE...
HIKOGORO AND NOBUKIYO THINK THEY HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR.
Oh! Then everything was a farce!
KICHO, I'M NOT A FOOL...
I PRETENDED TO BE ONE IN ORDER TO REACH MY GOAL!
I CAN FINALLY ACT!
I HAVE IMPROVED MY SKILLS SECRETLY.
NOW IS THE TIME TO USE THEM!
IT WILL BE THE FIRST STEP TOWARDS CONQUERING THE WORLD!
I WON'T DIE!
I WANT TO LIVE FOR YOU...
NOBUNAGA...
THE PLACE WAS A NEUTRAL TERRITORY, FAR FROM THE SAGIYAMA CASTLE, DOSAN'S RESIDENCE...
...AND FROM THE NAGOYA CASTLE, NOBUNAGA'S RESIDENCE.
THE MEETING BETWEEN NOBUNAGA AND DOSAN TOOK PLACE IN THE SHOTOKU SHRINE NEAR TONDA AND THE KISO RIVER.

MY FATHER MAY TRY TO KILL NOBUNAGA BEFORE ARRIVING AT THE SHRINE!
NOBUNAGA SET OFF AT DAWN TO ARRIVE TO THE MEETING PLACE BEFORE THE ARRANGED TIME.
I MUST STOP HIM NO MATTER WHAT!
I MUST HURRY! I KNOW A SHORTCUT!
SHO-TOKU SHRINE
OH!
IT'S DOSAN WITH HIS ENTOURAGE!
INCREDIBLE! TWO HUNDRED SOLDIERS WOULD HAVE BEEN MORE THAN ENOUGH TO MEET HIS SON-IN-LAW...
BUT DOSAN BROUGHT A THOUSAND ARCHERS AND INFANTRYMEN WITH HIM.
WHY?
THERE ARE SO MANY SOL-DIERS...
JUST LIKE I THOUGHT. MY FATHER WANTS TO KILL NOBUNAGA!
HA HA HA! WE'LL GET RID OF NOBUNAGA AT ONCE!
RO-GER!
UNDERS-TOOD?
SEND A CONTINGENT TO ATTACK OWARI IN THE MEANTIME.
MY LORD, THERE IS A HUT ALONG THE WAY FROM WHERE YOU CAN SPY WITHOUT BEING SEEN...
HOW ABOUT SPYING ON NOBUNAGA?
OH! GOOD IDEA! I'M CURIOUS TO SEE WHAT THAT FOOL IS DOING!


OH, MY LORD! I CAN SEE THEM IN THE DISTANCE!
HOW MANY OF THEM?
HERE IT IS!
WE'LL WATCH THE ARRIVAL OF THE FOOL OF OWARI WITH HIS ENTOURAGE FROM HERE!
TRUM! TRUM!
THERE ARE ABOUT TWO HUNDRED INFANTRY-MEN...
TRUM! TRUM! TRUM! TRUM!
OH, WAIT!
THERE ARE MORE...
VERY GOOD, THAT'S WHAT I WAS EXPECTING.
AND THERE ARE MORE THAN FIVE HUNDRED OF THEM!
THERE ARE ARCHERS AFTER THE INFANTRY-MEN!

But where have they come from?
THEY ARE FIVE HUNDRED MEN TOO!
WHAT? FIVE HUNDRED ARCHERS?!
AND THE ARTILLERY COMES NEXT!
MORE THAN FIVE HUNDRED RIFLES!
AND THAT'S NOT ALL!
LET ME SEE!
FIVE HUNDRED RIFLES...
WE ONLY HAVE TWO HUNDRED OF THEM.
A CAVALRY OF TWO HUNDRED MEN!
AND THERE ARE SOLDIERS WITH SPEARS NEXT!

AND LOOK AT THOSE SPEARS!
THEY ARE REALLY LONG!
AT LEAST TWICE THE STANDARD LENGTH!
WHAT? SIX HUNDRED MORE?
RATTLE
RATTLE
THERE ARE SIX HUNDRED SOLDIERS WITH SPEARS!
RUUMBLE
TWO THOUSAND MEN IN TOTAL!
TWO HUNDRED INFANTRYMEN, FIVE HUNDRED ARCHERS, FIVE HUNDRED MEN WITH RIFLES, TWO HUNDRED KNIGHTS AND SIX HUNDRED MEN WITH SPEARS!
HE LOOKS LIKE A BEGGAR.
OH... IS THAT NOBUNAGA?
WE ARE FINISHED!
SCRATCH SCRATCH
IT CAN'T BE..
HMM.. THIS ISN'T A GOOD-FOR-NOTHING'S DOING...
RATTLE
RATTLE
I.. UNDERESTIMATED HIM...

OH!
WE'LL KILL HIM DURING THE MEETING!
UNDERSTOOD?
WE MUST CHANGE OUR STRATEGY!
WE CAN'T BEAT HIM WITH OUR ARMY...
OTHERWISE THEY...
THEY'LL KILL HIM!
I'M WORRIED ABOUT NOBUNAGA!
MY LADY! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
PLEASE, TELL THEM TO CANCEL THE MEETING!
I BEG YOU, LET ME IN!
I HAVE TO SEE NOBUNAGA!
WAIT!
YOU CAN'T!
WHERE? I MUST ABSOLUTELY GO!
THIS WAY!
WHAT?!
WHAT? BUT THE MEETING IS ABOUT TO START!
EVERYTHING IS READY!

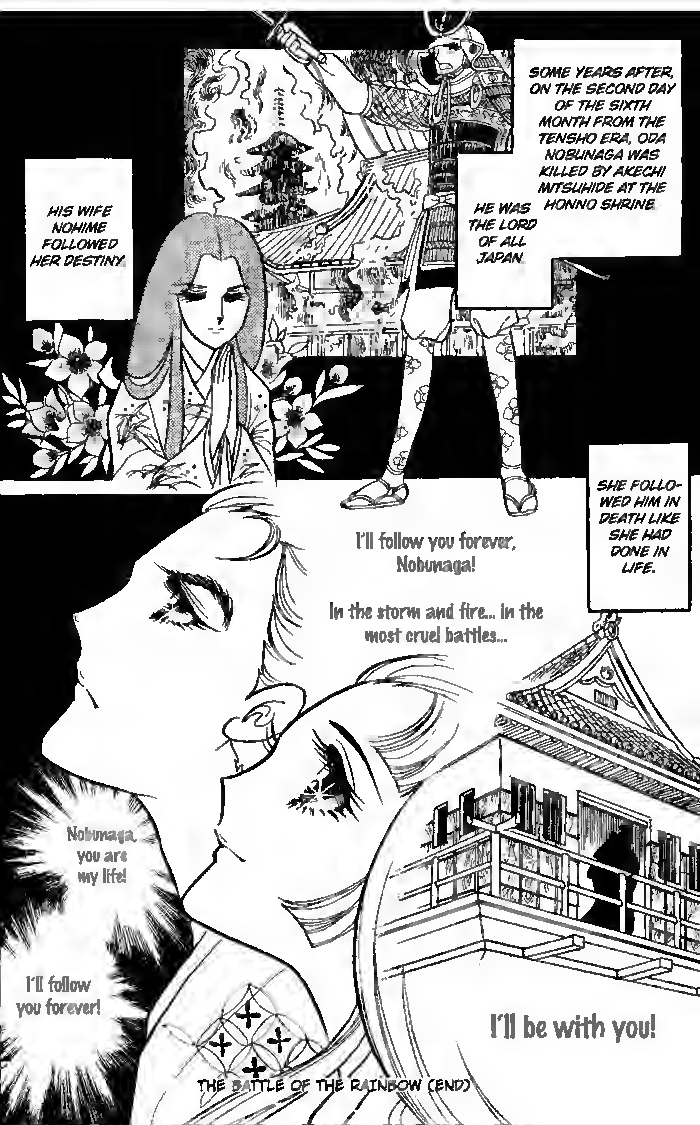
DO YOU UNDERSTAND? WHEN I OPEN THE FAN YOU'LL ATTACK NOBUNAGA!
YES!
LOOK, MY LORD!
Ha ha ha! Let's see how he looks in those rags!
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
Oh, no!
It's starting!
HIS EXCELLENCY ODA KAZUSANOKAMI NOBUNAGA!
THAT MAN CAN'T BE HIM..
NOBUNAGA DRESSES LIKE A BEGGAR...
OH!
AH!
WHO IS THAT?
IT'S .. IT'S...
ONLY NOBUNAGA CAN ENTER HERE!

It's him!
It's Nobunaga!

MY NAME IS ODA KAZUSANOKAMI NOBUNAGA.
OH!
NOBU-NAGA!
IS THAT REALLY YOU?!
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!
This is crazy!
He dressed in such a formal manner
Even his manners are perfect!

I surrender!
He has hidden his talents for years!
This man is not a fool!
WELCOME, NOBUNAGA!
IT'S A TRUE HONOR HAVING A SON-IN-LAW LIKE YOU!
THANK YOU, YOUR EXCELLENCY.
THE MEETING FINISHED WITHOUT FURTHER INCIDENT.
I CAN'T KILL THAT MAN...
I'LL RECEIVE HIM AS A MEMBER OF THE FAMILY...
HE'LL BE A GOOD HUSBAND FOR KICHO ..
NOBODY DARED TO SAY HE WAS A FOOL AGAIN.
HIS BROTHER NOBUYUKI HAD TO GIVE UP HIS PLANS.
THE MEETING CONSOLIDATED THE ALLIANCE BETWEEN THE PROVINCES OF MINO AND OWARI.
NOBUNAGA'S GOOD REPUTATION INCREASED.

MY LORD, YOU HAVE WON WITHOUT HAVING TO FIGHT...
EVEN MY HEART
DO WHATEVER YOU WANT WITH ME ..
MY LIFE IS IN YOUR HANDS!
I'LL FOLLOW YOU WHERE-VER YOU GO
IN MY HANDS YOU SAID?
YOU'L DO WHATEVER I ASK YOU?
I WANT YOU TO BE WITH ME IN THE WAR. .
IN THE BURNING BATTLE-FIELD...
NEITHER THE RAIN NOR THE WIND WILL BE ABLE TO STOP US ..
ALRIGHT, I WANT YOU TO LIVE WITH ME!
I WON'T HAVE A SECOND OF PEACE UNTIL I CONQUER THE WORLD..
MY SWORD WILL BE MY CUSHION!
KICHO, I WANT TO DRAG YOU INTO SUCH A HELL...
DO YOU REALLY WANT TO COME WITH ME?
OF COURSE!
FOR ALL MY LIFE. .


SOME YEARS AFTER, ON THE SECOND DAY OF THE SIXTH MONTH FROM THE TENSHO ERA, ODA NOBUNAGA WAS KILLED BY AKECHI MITSUHIDE AT THE HONNO SHRINE.
HE WAS THE LORD OF ALL JAPAN.
HIS WIFE NOHIME FOLLOWED HER DESTINY.
SHE FOLLOWED HIM IN DEATH LIKE SHE HAD DONE IN LIFE.
I'll follow you forever, Nobunaga!
In the storm and fire... in the most cruel battles...
Nobunaga, you are my life!
I'll follow you forever!
I'll be with you!
THE BATTLE OF THE RAINBOW (END)